

# The Seniors Visit England and Sweden

By SHERRILL SHERMAN

SECRETARY, UNITED STATES SENIORS' GOLF ASSOCIATION

The Senior Golfers Society of Great Britain renewed its invitation for a team from the United States Seniors' Golf Association to visit England for resumption of the Triangular Matches in 1949. The invitation was accepted. Unfortunately, transportation difficulties prevented the Canadian Senior Golfers from sending a team.

When Prince Bertil, grandson of the King of Sweden, visited the Pine Valley Golf Club as the guest of William Batt, he met our President, John A. Brown, and suggested that our Senior team visit Sweden after the match in England. He felt such a visit would increase the popularity of golf in his country.

## A Threefold Objective

The object of our trip therefore became threefold: to renew our relations with the British Seniors, to win for the first time on a British course and to visit Sweden for a number of informal matches, playing on different courses and, as Seniors, helping to increase the popularity of golf.

The trip was an outstanding success, first in England by winning, 7 to 5, and then in Sweden by winning the interest and good will of the Swedish golfers, where the actual winning of the informal matches was secondary.

It was fitting that, when Crown Prince Gustaf Adolph of Sweden lunched with the Seniors at Bastad, the Swedish Team should win, 4 to 3. His cordiality and friendship, the informality with which he joined our team and then again each pair as it left the first tee to be photographed proved him truly a first gentleman of Europe.

Guy Hemsley, the Captain of the British Team, boarded the Queen Elizabeth as soon as she docked at Southampton, and we motored to Woking. Then in London we were guests at a reception at the Savoy where a large number of the British Seniors and

their ladies made us truly welcome. There was a formal dinner the night before the first match, with proper attention to ceremonial details and a program of interesting toasts.

Our match against the British was played at the Woking Golf Club, the 1949 home of the Seniors, 30 miles from London. An extremely dry summer created a condition troublesome to both Teams.

Only too soon did our visit end.

We arrived at Gothenburg to be met by Anders Jonsson, Secretary of the Swedish Golf Union, A. Gabrielson and William Batt.

After lunch and informal golf on the day of our arrival, we were entertained at dinner at the Henricksberg Restaurant by Mr. Gabrielson. On Tuesday, after lunch at the golf club, there was a scheduled match followed by a party at the country residence of Axel Jonsson. Then a dinner given by Mr. Adler, host at the Royal Batchelor Club, founded in 1769.

At Bastad we visited the residence of Mr. Larson, stayed at a very attractive inn and took dinner in Kings Passage-way at an attractive restaurant.

We left for Fosterbo, a seaside resort on the Baltic, on Friday, stopping for lunch at Romosa Waters, in use since about 1700 for its healthful water. A match was played Saturday, preceded as usual by a pleasant lunch. At the delightful residence of Knut Edstrand, cocktails were served in a unique bar finished in yellow brick. These bricks were decorated with the signatures and expressions of pleasure of many guests.

After informal matches on Sunday, we drove to the third largest city of Sweden, Malmo, for another delightful dinner.

On Monday we arrived at Stockholm and went to the Stockholm Golf Club, a more modern and up-to-date clubhouse, for lunch and then a round of the course, which more nearly approaches in

## A Junket with a Purpose



**Members of the Team representing the United States Seniors' Golf Association in England and Sweden: John F. Riddell, Jr., Harrison Smith, Fitzwilliam Sargent, Joseph M. Wells, William C. Hunt, John G. Jackson, Captain, Sherrill Sherman, Secretary, Robert A. Gardner, Stephen W. Creekmore and Duane Tower**

style, condition, trapping and turf our own courses. We lunched at the club again on Tuesday with members of the Stockholm Team, afterward playing a match.

At the three golf clubs of Gothenberg, Bastad and Stockholm, each of our members was decorated with a club pin indicating honorary membership in the club. In England and at the four Swedish clubs, each of our players decorated his opponent with the new United States Seniors' pin. In addition, each of our players gave a package of the tees like those we presented to our own players at our annual tournament.

Captain Jackson and Secretary Sherman played as members of the United States Seniors' Team in Sweden, William Batt also playing in the last two matches. Our team was successful in three of its four matches—winning, 5 to 2, at Gothenberg; 5 to 3, at Fosterbo; 6½ to ½ at Stockholm.

Before we left there was presented to each of our members a descriptive tablet stating it was given to record the visit of the United States Seniors to Sweden, with the individual recipient on the reverse. The tablet reads: "Commemorating the Visit to Sweden by the International Team of the United States Seniors' Golf Association, July, 1949. Swedish Golf Union."

This ended our formal entertainment by our Swedish golfing friends. It is impossible to put into words adequately proper appreciation for their innumerable courtesies. It was a trip that all of us will remember. Steve Creekmore, from Arkansas, made quite a hit with his gaudy shirts; it was expensive because at every club he lost a shirt.

It is hoped that as a result of our trip there will be formed a Swedish Senior Golf Association and that we can in the future have international matches.